

# The Southerner.

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**THE SOUTHERNER.**  
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## AGRICULTURAL.



Agriculture is the chief foundation of a nation's power, as it not only furnishes man with food and clothing, but also with materials for the mechanic arts, and commerce.

From the Southern Planter.

## THE COST, PROFITS AND ECONOMY OF LABOR.

There is nothing connected with the husbandman's occupation upon which his profits and success in his vocation so immediately depend, as on the labor employed by him, and his management of it; this is especially true in a sparsely settled country like ours, where lands are cheap, and the facilities of obtaining the means of living abundant, and the profits of well directed labor are large; and in Virginia, where slave labor is used, the importance of this consideration is enhanced by the high price of slaves, produced by the demand for that kind of labor in the cotton growing States and by the increased wages paid for labor to be employed on the numerous public works now in progress in the State. Labor is the most costly item in our farm accounts at all times; however, and in these sections of our State where free labor is used, either altogether or for the greater part, we find the most ample and satisfactory proofs of it—in the very small number of laborers kept regularly on the farms—in the greater use of labor-saving machines and contrivances of all kinds—in the cultivation only of such lands as will probably yield a profit on the tillage—in the use of a greater number of draught animals as a substitute for manual labor—in the appropriation of many of their lands to grazing—and in the selection of such staple crops as require the least labor in their management. And slave labor is by no means exempt from the charge of costliness, although the owners of slaves do not give the same evidences of it in their economical use of them; but the greater cheapness of this species of labor over free labor may be clearly shown by a very simple calculation, by which it is manifest that the expense of rearing and maintaining them to an age when they become profitable, will make such labor from thirty to fifty per cent. cheaper than free labor.

To be profitable, labor must be directed by an intelligent eye to the end to be accomplished, and with a proper adaptation of the means to the end; it is the neglect of this rule in agricultural operations, which produces the disastrous results so often witnessed among our farming friends, by which whole families are beggared with the means of abundance within their reach, and which has made the term "farming profits" a bye-word and a reproach to its votaries. It has now become an established fact that farming on poor land is a losing business, (which, though generally true, has fortunately some honorable exceptions;) even on land of average fertility, with ordinary management and economy, it is esteemed barely a decent living, and on rich land alone it is profitable; and this results, in a great measure, from the non-observance of this rule. How many instances do we see of large farms of poor land overrun with swarms of negroes, who, like locusts, consume everything made on the land, and not content with this, they go abroad "seeking whom they may devour." In such cases there is no adaptation of the means to the end—there is too much labor on the farm, and even if diligent in their work, there is no profit made to be put to the credit of either labor or land. Again, we see many farmers who cultivate large landed estates (in some cases of rich, in others of poor land,) with an amount of labor not equal to the proper cultivation of one half the surface; and in consequence, over-cropping, (and not unfrequently over-working,) with its attendant train of evils, follows, exhibiting half tilled crops, half fenced fields, and

unchecked waste in all its forms. Such management as this yields but little profit, and leaves both farm and labor creditors to "a beggarly account." In other cases, it often happens that farmers undertake to cultivate their lands with an insufficient team, in manifest violation of the modern enlightened policy, which substitutes draught animals as far as practicable, for manual labor, and the profits of labor is the necessary sacrifice. And it is a mistake equally fatal to profitable farming to use improper or unsuitable implements of husbandry, or such as are in bad order, as is too frequently the custom, and justify such a practice on the ground of economy, forgetting that the plough, axe, or hoe is of little cost, compared with the labor by which they are made productive. Economy in agricultural operations is indispensable to profitable results, but it is not economy in little matters alone, which secures this end, as many seem to think, (such as the use of a few barrels of corn, more or less in the year) but economy in labor is the main lever in its accomplishment. There is nothing gained by this "saving at the spigot and losing at the bung" method of economy, and the farmer whose operations are conducted on such views of economy cannot reasonably expect to realize any profit from labor. It is as little to be expected that labor will yield any profit when it is applied to poor land, such as, unaided by manure in some shape, will not produce a crop more than sufficient to pay the interest on the cost of the land—an enlightened system of agriculture should avoid the costly expenditure of labor on a soil, which does not pay the expense of cultivation, and it were better policy even to sink the small profit made on such land, (by leaving it waste) rather than incur the greater loss of sinking the profits of labor. An outlay of labor on such unproductive lands is justifiable, however, under some circumstances—such as the improvement of small spots of poor land in a field, or even the cultivation of poor fields on farms, having other productive lands, for the purpose of enriching them, and thus getting them in condition to be more profitable; or with a simultaneous dressing of manure on them, which will insure a profit on the labor expended on them, if not the first year, certainly in a rotation of crops. There are certainly many lands which are not "worth cultivating" unless improved, and their continued cultivation cannot yield any profit to labor; but a moderate investment in labor and other means may soon put them in condition to yield a fair profit on the cost of the land and its improvement, in the shape of grazing profit, and such lands should be so treated. The various farm operations, even in their minutest ramifications, all involve this question of the profits and economy of labor; and in view of this fact, it is not surprising that farming profits are frequently so small, when it is considered that these operations are so often left to the control of ignorant slaves, or to the direction of managers deplorably uninformed of the value and economy of labor, experience alone, with many such, being the only guide by which they regulate the complicated affairs of the farm. Hence it is that we see in the execution of a small job of work, twice or thrice as many hands sent as are requisite to perform it, and the surplus of labor thus employed, and the time lost in travelling "to and fro" is a total loss. An indifferent, half-worn axe, or one too light or dull, is placed in the hands of a good axe-man, and a loss of ten, twenty or thirty per cent. is sustained; a like result follows the use of an indifferent scythe, cradle, or plough; and the use of a wheat machine out of repair, where frequent stoppages for repairs and fixing are required, often costs more in loss and labor than the price of a new one. Hauling bulky but light articles in small cart or wagon bodies, not adapted for such service, working one horse in a two horse plough or cultivator, is too often practised, whereby neither the driver nor team can earn fair wages; moving fences from one part of the farm to another for temporary purposes, and many of the other items of transportation on the farm, as they are usually conducted, are attended with a like waste of labor. All these smaller details of want of economy in farm labor (and many others not enumerated) make an amount of waste appalling to contemplate; sufficient indeed to bankrupt any estate, and the systematic practice of very few of them will inevitably lop off all the profits of labor. Even the intelligent proprietor sometimes fails to discover the loss which he

is thus sustaining in his farming operations in time to save his estate from ruin; and this is owing chiefly to the fact of his entrusting the management of his farm entirely to overseers and negroes, (which system offers a premium upon laziness to the proprietor, and upon neglect and mismanagement to the overseer;) to his keeping no accurate farm accounts, and striking a balance of profit or loss annually; (and this because habit and education have so trained him;) and likewise to the fact that farmers in Virginia, (where slave labor is extensively used) for the most part, own the labor, by which their farms are tilled, and not having to pay fixed wages for it, by the day, week, month, or year, they naturally become careless as to the manner in which it is applied, and remain ignorant of what profit it yields them; and it requires a succession of disasters, the failure of income, the pressure of debt, or the stimulus of some other equally urgent cause, to open their true condition.

Thus it appears that want of economy in labor is the undoubted cause of unprofitable farming with a vast number of the craft, in spite of the preponderating advantages which attach to slave as compared with free labor; and it is equally apparent that waste of labor is the natural tendency of a system based on slavery; and it requires all the energy and attention of our best farmers to counteract it, and to show, as they sometimes do, a balance sheet, which compares favorably with the most profitable farming in any country.

How are these evils to be remedied? and what can be done by the citizens and by the government of the State? are questions of grave importance, and should claim the maturest consideration of every true-hearted and loyal son of the Old Dominion. The cases enumerated in this essay, in illustration of the want of economy in farm labor, naturally suggest their own remedy; but the tendency to waste of labor, arising from the institution of slavery, is especially to be guarded against, because its influences are secret and imperceptible, and are so interwoven with the fabric of society, that they are more difficult to be thrown off. A partial remedy for it, however, would be found in the keeping a regular account with the farm and its labor, which would show, at short intervals, the profit or loss, in proper connexion, and thus enable the proprietor to correct his errors, and so alter his management as to render it productive; this would be immediately beneficial in the manner indicated, and in addition, would tend to increase his interest in his affairs, and stimulate him to a more diligent attention to all his farm operations, which, of itself, would remove many of the causes producing waste of labor; but a radical cure for this evil tendency can only be made by the systematic and proper education of those who intend to pursue agriculture as a profession. Much has already been done by the farmers of Virginia, in their individual capacity, to elevate their profession and to make it lucrative; numerous examples are familiar to all, of such men, whose intelligence and energy have not only enriched their own farms and filled their purses, and surrounded their families with the comforts and luxuries of life, but, by their practice and precept, they have been instrumental in spreading the blessings of plenty and independence around them; much is now doing, and can still be done, by individual enterprise towards accomplishing the same result, remedying the evil practices by which agriculture is retarded and kept back; this may be accomplished, to a limited extent, by the influence which every good farmer has in his power to exert on his circle of neighbors around him, and more widely, by communicating to all the fraternity, through the press, whatever information of value he may possess, and by his pen exciting an interest and keeping alive a proper spirit, in the profession. And much more might be done, in this behalf, by the associate effort of the farmers of Virginia, if the zeal, so necessary to the success of every undertaking, were not wanting; but this method of improving the practice of agriculture has failed so often, and so signally in Virginia, that it would be scarce worth another trial, without strong and decided manifestations of a better feeling. The State could do much for the advancement of agriculture, (and doubtless would, if its councils were not so much infested with time-serving politicians,) by removing the various drawbacks to the profits of farming, in the shape of oppressive fence laws, and the like; by an enlight-

ened system of public improvements; but, above all, by educating her citizens, and by establishing scientific and practical agricultural schools, in which those, who are destined to till the soil, may be trained and qualified to develop the dormant resources of Virginia, with profit to themselves and advantage and honor to their kind and fostering mother—whose wisdom would manifest itself in thus "casting her bread upon the waters, that she may find it after many days." The wealth of a country consists, in a great measure, in its population, on the character of this, on its moral and intellectual development, depend the prosperity of the State, and its influence and position among the nations of the earth. Virginia has inexhaustible stores of wealth in her citizens—in her labor; she has fertilized her sister States from the outpourings of her abundance, and yet there is no fail in "the widow's cruse of oil"—how far she has come short of her true position, how far she has "hid in the earth the talent which she was entrusted," how far her labor and her resources have been, and still are, permitted to run to waste for want of development, it well becomes her governors, her legislators, and her statesmen to pause and enquire. Educate the people, and the State is enriched. Educate the people, and the State must be improved and elevated to her true destiny among nations.

WILLIAM W. MINOR,  
P. H. GOODLOE,  
Albemarle Co., January 18, 1852.

## POLITICAL.

### State of Parties.

The following table presents the state of parties throughout the whole confederacy at the last elections. Wherever the election was for Governor, that vote is given.—Wherever there was no gubernatorial election, but of other State officers such vote is given: in the absence of these, the vote for members of Congress or the State Legislature. That no question may be raised among our Whig contemporaries about the correctness of our table, we will observe that the figures are mostly taken from Greeley's Almanac. The confidence manifested by here and there a Whig, is certainly evidence of large faith, or ignorance of the state of parties; to such we would commend an examination of the following figures:

	Majority.	Dem.	Whig.
Maine,		8,912	
New Hampshire,	10,702,		7,726,
Vermont,		423,	
Rhode Island,			20,680,
Massachusetts,		8,069,	
Connecticut,		1,432,	
New York,		4,658,	
Pennsylvania,		8,465,	
Delaware,		23,	
Maryland,		1,855,	
Virginia,		6,518,	
North Carolina,		3,193,	
Alabama,		6,490,	
Florida,			481,
Mississippi,	9,273,		
Louisiana,			320,
Texas,	6,688,		
Arkansas,	3,099,		
South Carolina,			1,660,
Tennessee,		850,	
Kentucky,		9,532,	
Missouri,		26,108,	
Ohio,		9,477,	
Indiana,		7,493,	
Illinois,		6,026,	
Michigan,		3,141,	
Wisconsin,		1,351,	
Iowa,		3,110,	
California,			
In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and California, sixteen States, the vote was for Governor—the Democrats electing fourteen, (one by the Legislature,) the Whigs two.			
In New Jersey, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Indiana, the election was for members of Congress, and all gave Democratic majorities except Florida, and Louisiana, which gave very small Whig majorities. In New York the election was for Comptroller, Secretary of State, Treasurer, &c., and the average Democratic votes and the average Whig votes are given.—In Maryland the election was for Comptroller, Secretary of State, Treasurer, &c., for School Superintendent. In Illinois there was no contest for members of Congress, and we give the Presidential vote of 1848. South Carolina has			

had no party contest for some years, but she is Democratic by two to one at least. By this statement it will be seen that upon the best data we have of the last elections the Democrats were in a majority in four, and a plurality in one; two of these however are undoubtedly Democratic States at this time, as they have usually been.—*Prov. Post.*

### Gen. Pierce.

The undersigned having had their attention called to a communication published in the Manchester Democrat of the 8th of January last, and republished in the Washington Republic of the 13th instant, purporting to give an account of Gen. Pierce's speech at New Boston last winter, deem it due to truth to make the following statement: "We were all of us present on the occasion referred to, and are therefore able to speak positively in regard to the truthfulness of that report. We do not hesitate to pronounce it, without any qualification, a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. In whole and in part, in substance and detail it is entirely and grossly false, and was so denounced by those of us who saw it at the time of its original publication. No one expression there imputed to Gen. Pierce is correct and most of them are entire fabrications, without the slightest shadow of truth. Gen. Pierce's speech upon this occasion was an able, bold and eloquent vindication of the course pursued by the democratic party of the State in rescinding the nomination of John Atwood, their former candidate for Governor, on account of his joining with the abolitionists in their opposition to the compromise measures. He spoke of the fugitive slave law as an act in perfect conformity to the requirements of the constitution, and one that we were bound by the highest considerations to observe and execute in good faith. He alluded to the arguments made use of by the higher-law politicians, and denounced their doctrines as fanatical and dangerous. He showed that their objections to the present fugitive-slave law applied with equal force to the act of 1793, and even the constitution itself. The law of 1793, he said, had received the approval of Washington and of many of the wisest and purest patriots among the founders of our republic, and he considered these men as moral, as virtuous and as conscientious as those noisy abolitionists who were now trying to overthrow the institutions they have established.

To us who are acquainted with the character of the warfare the abolition organs of this State have been accustomed to wage war against the democratic party, communications in their columns like the one above referred to occasion no surprise. Here they can deceive no one. But as a desperate attempt has been made abroad to prejudice Gen. Pierce by reviving some of their miserable falsehoods, we have deemed it no more than a simple act of justice to publish over our own signatures the foregoing declaration.

Signed by 112 persons.

### Apportionment

#### OF REPRESENTATION.

In the House of Representatives, on Thursday, the Apportionment Bill, which passed the Senate some time since, was passed as it came from the latter body. The action of Congress in the premises was rendered necessary on account of the accidental destruction of a portion of the Population returns of California by fire, as in their absence it was impossible for the Secretary of the Interior to make the apportionment according to the provisions of the law of 23d May, 1850. Under the act of Congress just passed the whole number of Representatives will be two hundred and thirty-four, distributed as follows, viz:

Maine	6	Mississippi	5
New Hampshire	3	Louisiana	4
Vermont	3	Virginia	13
Massachusetts	11	North Carolina	8
Rhode Island	2	Tennessee	10
Connecticut	4	Kentucky	7
New York	33	Missouri	10
New Jersey	5	Arkansas	2
Pennsylvania	25	Indiana	11
Delaware	1	Illinois	9
Maryland	6	Michigan	4
Ohio	21	Wisconsin	3
South Carolina	6	Iowa	2
Georgia	8	Texas	2
Florida	1	California	2
Alabama	7		
Total	234		

### Southern Rights Party.

Hon. Wm. L. Yancy made an able speech in the southern rights convention. It was in defence of a report which recommended a co-operation, not an amalgamation, with the democratic party in support of Gen. Pierce; that is accepting the candidate without endorsing the platform. Of course this position would make him and those who went with him, rather an ally than an integral part of the party. But Mr. Yancy himself shall describe his position?—

"The position which this policy would give to the southern rights party during this election, might be compared to that held by the French army, which co-operated with the American troops during the revolutionary war—struggling against a common enemy, with purposes somewhat different in detail—though having the common object of freeing the country of a power, which had used its power but to oppress."

In the course of this speech he went into a searching analysis of the political course of Franklin Pierce on this question—tracing his votes in congress and his career, at home, and contended that a review of his entire career, showed that it had been the aim of General Pierce, not only to keep himself above all suspicion of favoring free-soilism, but to keep, as far as he could, the N. W. Hampshire democracy in a like sound condition. After pronouncing him to be as pure a state rights man as could be found outside of South Carolina, he went on to say that such a man must personally be acceptable to the state rights men of the whole country. There was one personal objection urged against him, however, and but one. It is charged that he has said that he "deplored the existence of slavery." Mr. Y. said that he did not regard it a part of the southern rights creed that we rejoiced at the existence of slavery; or, that if one "deplored" its existence, he was thereby an enemy to southern rights. On the contrary, there were thousands of true hearted southerners in our midst, who, while believing that the state alone has control over the question, and that the institution is too intricately interwoven in our social and political system to be now destroyed, would yet gladly get rid of it if it were practicable.—*Bull. Patriot.*

Thomas H. Bouton, A. W. Lamb and Mr. Phelps, Democrats, and Messrs. Miller and Oliver, Whigs, have been elected to Congress from Missouri.

### Gun Powder Won't Do.

The Editor of the Columbus (Ga.) Times writes thus from Niagara:

"The Scott Whigs have just finished, on this spot, a celebration of the Lundy's Lane battle, for the benefit of Gen. Scott—a battle fought and won by Gen. Brown, and in which Scott was a subordinate, and not more distinguished than Miller, Ripley and a dozen others, his equals in rank and performance. To hear the Sewardites talk of Lundy's Lane one would suppose that Scott had been commander in chief and did all the fighting. A Buffalo paper, outstripping the rest in ardor, has even put Miller's celebrated 'I'll try, sir,' into Scott's mouth, and robbed the rightful owner of that gallant expression (afterwards worn on the buttons of his regiment) of the glory of it. The Scott ticket, I can assure you, needed a lift of this sort. The enthusiasm 'wouldn't come' before, nor has it come yet. The odor of Sewardism sticks to Scott's skirts, and against the united Democracy, he cannot, in my opinion, carry New York."

### Scott in Mississippi.

On the 24th ult., at Vicksburg, Miss., a very large meeting was held to hear speeches from different orators, one of whom was Col. Jeff. Davis. He made a speech in that city some weeks before, in which he expressed confidence in the State going for Pierce by ten thousand majority. Since then he had traveled through the northern portion of the State to the Tennessee line, found the party firmly united and actively engaged, and, judging from the spontaneous gatherings of the people from every hill top and valley along his journey to pay tribute to the merits of our candidate, he thought the majority would not be less than twenty thousand. Col. Davis said that as a personal friend of Taylor, he regretted that he ever turned politician. He did not know how to manage the affairs of government, because he had never learned; Scott was incapable of being taught. Two facts which need no comment.